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PATENT 2-12-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Furusawa et al.

Serial No. 09/522,584

Filed: March 10, 2000

For: MESSAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS)

Art Unit: 2155

Examiner: Eng, David Y.

) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with
) the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in
) an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for
) Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

) 1-31-03

) Date

) F-CLASS.WCM

) Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 48,872

Attorney for Applicant

RESPONSE A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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This is in response to the office action dated November 1, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,521) in view of Beck (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,101). Applicants respectfully traverse because the cited references do not disclose or suggest a "key information extraction means for extracting key information from the message received by said reception means, the key information being contained in the message as part of attribute data thereof and used to identify a predetermined handler program relevant to the message"

2 3 (emphasis added), as recited in claims 1 and 7. Furthermore, Applicants traverse because the cited references do not disclose or suggest a "table that defines relationships between the key information and the handler programs associated therewith," as recited in claims 3 and 6.

In particular, since the purpose and benefit of the cited references are different from that of the present invention (as described below), any optimization of the cited references would be directed towards achieving the purpose and benefit of the cited references, and not to achieving the purpose and benefit of the present invention. The Examiner has not shown that in order to improve the processing of received messages according to their content, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the devices of the cited references to include a key information extraction means, as recited in claims 1 and 7, and a table, as recited in claims 3 and 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation or suggestion from the cited references to make the combination asserted by the Examiner. Moreover, even if, *arguendo*, the cited references are combined, they nevertheless fail to disclose the key information extraction means, as recited in the claims 1 and 7, and the table, as recited in claims 3 and 6.

In the present invention, when a message is received by the reception means, a key information extraction unit 5b extracts a keyword or key information to identify a particular handler program that is relevant to the message (Applicants' specification, page 7, lines 19-22). These predefined keywords or key information along with their associated handler programs are defined in a table 5g, and the handler programs are kept in multiple handler program files 5f (Applicants' specification, page 7, lines 6-8). For example, the key

information extraction unit 5b extracts a keyword "<MUST-READ>" from the message's subject line (Applicants' specification, page 8, lines 14-19), which is supplied to the program loading unit 5c (Applicants' specification, page 8, lines 21-24).

The program loading unit 5c then refers to the table 5g and loads the associated handler program (Applicants' specification, page 8, line 26 to page 9, line 3). Since the loaded handler program includes a collection of primitive processes, the execution 5d will execute an appropriate primitive process in response to an event that may occur with the received message (Applicants' specification, page 9, lines 3-8). In this particular example of the keyword "<MUST-READ>", the receiving station 5 will display a note of "A must-read message has just arrived" on the monitor screen (Applicants' specification, page 9, lines 11-15). Thereafter, other primitive processes may be executed until the user deletes the received message (Applicants' specification, page 9, lines 17-20). As a result, the present invention provides an improved message processing apparatus that sends the user timely notification about the received messages through their lifetime, from reception to deletion (Applicants' specification, page 10, lines 20-23). The present invention solved, among other things, the shortcomings of conventional message processing apparatuses that require time consuming customization and/or limited mail filtering, while providing an improved message processing apparatus that processes received messages according to their content.

In contrast, the Wang reference relates to problems where a user is connected via a phone line to the network (Col. 1, lines 33-37). In particular, these problems include the tedious and time consuming task of manually checking emails by periodically dialing into

the network server (Col. 1, lines 55-59) or the waste of power and unnecessary telephone toll charges when the computer is left connected at all times (Col. 1, lines 61-67). As a result, in order to solve this problem, the Wang reference provides an email device that immediately notifies a user when an email is received without dialing the network via a phone line (Col. 2, lines 32-34). Thus, the Wang reference, at best, relates to an apparatus that circumvents the problems relating to a telephone connection, while the present invention relates to processing the received messages according to their content. Moreover, since the Wang reference does not relate to the processing of received messages according to their content, there cannot be any disclosure that relates to a table that defines relationships between the key information and the handler programs associated therewith, as recited in claims 3 and 6.

On the other hand, the Beck et al. reference relates to a data processing device that includes a direct memory access (DMA) circuit operative to receive input data, which are stored in a first memory location while output data are being sent concurrently from a second memory location (Col. 2, line 62 to Col. 3, line 3). The problem that the cited reference relates to communication overhead between processors (Col. 2, lines 55-57). In other words, the Beck et al. reference relates to a microcomputer and cache memory allocation during processing by a Central Processing Unit, while the present invention relates to the application of a message processing apparatus for processing messages according to their content. Thus, the Beck et al. reference does not even relate to the same field as the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation and suggestion from the cited reference to combine with the Wang et al. reference.

Moreover, in the Beck et al. reference, the Examiner asserted that the decoder 202a, also referred to as the control logic 202, corresponds to the key information extraction means, as recited in claims 1 and 7. However, the function and purpose of the control logic 202 disclosed in the cited reference are vastly different from that of the key information extraction means, as recited in the claims. In particular, the control logic 202 includes a combinatorial logic 202a for decoding the instruction code of the instruction register 94 (Col. 18, lines 3-6) and a sequential logic 202b for controlling various functions of microcomputer 10 (e.g., reading of data operands from memory by CPU 12) (Col. 18, lines 12-16).

Combinatorial logic is a concept in which two or more input states define one or more output states, where the resulting state or states are related by defined rules that are independent of previous states, and sequential logic is a form of binary circuit design that employs one or more inputs and outputs, whose states are related by defined rules that depend, in part, on previous states. As shown, the decoder 202a asserted by Examiner relates to logics and states in a circuit design. However, the key information extraction means of the present invention is used for extracting key information from a received message. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Applicants respectfully submit that the decoder 202a of the cited reference cannot correspond to the key information extraction means, as recited in the claims. In addition, relating to claims 3 and 6, although a trap vector table (FIG. 8c) is disclosed by the cited reference, this table is different from the table, as recited in claim 3, because again both tables relate to different functions and purposes. In conclusion, even if, *arguendo*, the cited references are combined, as asserted, they nevertheless do not disclose

the key information extraction means, as recited in the claims 1 and 7, and the table, as recited in claims 3 and 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 be withdrawn.


Since claims 2-6 depend upon claim 1, they necessarily include all of the features of their associated independent claim plus other additional features. Thus, Applicants submit that the §103 rejection of claims 2-6 has also been overcome for the same reasons mentioned above to overcome the §103 rejection of independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of claims 2-6 also be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. The Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2153

Applicants: Furusawa et al.

Serial No.: 09/522,584

Filed: March 10, 2000

For: MESSAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2155

Examiner: Eng, David Y.

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1-31-03

Date

F-CLASS, WCM

Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 48,872

Attorney for Applicant

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a communication regarding the above-identified application.

Fee Calculation For Claims As Amended

	As Amended	Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	7	20	0	x \$18.00	= \$
Independent Claims	2	3	0	x \$84.00	= \$
Fee for Multiple Dependent Claims				\$280.00	= \$
Total Additional Fee					\$
Small Entity Fee (reduced by half)					\$

(X) Response A

(X) If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely and does not separately accompany this transmittal, Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely.

(X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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